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Chapter 11 Cocoon

"YOU WILL BE MET WITH UNBELIEVABLE DISASTER"... HUH.
WE GOT SEPARATED FROM THE ELUSIVE PIMP...
AFTER ENTERING WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE JUST A DRAWING ON THE WALL...
AND THEN, KATARI'S GENDER CHANGED

JUST AS SHE SAID, IT REALLY IS "UNBELIEVABLE"...
WHY THE HELL AM I A WOMAN?!
NOT TO MENTION ONE WITH A RIDICULOUSLY NICE BODY!
I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL!
WHOSE NIGHTMARE IS THIS?!
MINE?! NO, WAIT... TOMATO-KUN'S?!
AAAAAH!
Kataru calm down
TO BE HONEST... I'M TRYING MY BEST TO STAY SANE, TOO.
MYSTERIES OF FISH
Special Edition Mimicry and Gender Change

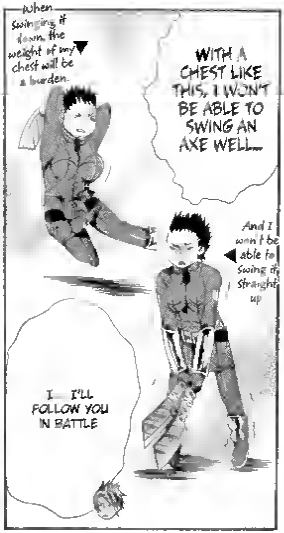
"THE FISH ECOLOGY IS A TREASURE TROVE OF MYSTERIES."
"AMONG THEM, THERE ARE RARE SPECIES WITH THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THEIR GENDER."
♀
The largest individuals, considered the "first in rank", become males.
"WHEN THERE'S ONLY ONE GENDER PRESENT WITHIN A LIMITED AREA,"
"SOME OF THE FISH WILL CHANGE GENDERS TO COMPEN-SATE."
"THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN STIK YOUR INTEREST AND ANXIETY QUITE LIKE 'THE UNKNOWN'."

"IS THE SURVIVAL OF A SPECIES AN OBJECTIVE THAT CAN SURPASS EVEN GENDER?"
"INTEREST", HUH.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S BEING STIRRED UP AT THE MOMEN
MYSTERIES OF FISH
KATARI
IS ANXIETY

NOT TO MENTION, I'M A HUMAN! A HUMAN!
I SEE.
STOP ACTING LIKE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU! IF YOU WERE IN MY POSITION, IT'D BE A DISASTER, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HELPING YOU OUT WITH EGG-LAYING.
It's not like I'd want to become things like that either!
Go extinct in peace.
I'M NOT GOING TO GO LAY EGGS JUST BECAUSE I HAVE BOOBS!

Make eye contact
YOU CAN'T EVEN MEET MY GAZE, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW THROUGH FOR ME IN BATTLE!
F... FOR NOW, LET'S SEARCH FOR PIMP AND WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.


When swinging it down, the weight of my chest will be a burden.
WITH A CHEST LIKE THIS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SWING AN AXE WELL...
And I won't be able to swing it straight up
I... I'LL FOLLOW YOU IN BATTLE

CHANGING GENDERS WITHOUT TURNING FIRST INTO A COCOON
IN YOUR CASE IT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL AN IM-PERFECT METAMOR-PHOSIS*
Like I'd become cocoon! Disgusting
THE MEANING MIGHT BE DIFFERENT, BUT IT PISSES ME OFF YOU CALLED ME A PERVERT!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AZIAN—

*変態 (hentai) can mean either metamorphosis or pervert, which is what Katari is referring to

ACH—
AZIAN!
WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE—
...THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE INTERRUPTING MY SNEEZES TODAY...
I CHANGED MY MIND... AND I'M TAKING A BREAK FROM WORK
IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE...
I HAD INTENDED TO JUST DO SOME NORMAL CLAN WORK, BUT...

I SAW SOMETHING THAT I COULDN'T OVER-LOOK...
ALTHOUGH IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A PRANK DRAWING ON THE WALL
UMM... THIS IS GOING TO SOUND WEIRD, BUT...
THAT FISH-MAN FROM YOUR GROUP...
IS HE ACTUALLY A SHE?

AFTER BEING CONSTANTLY IGNORED BY MARIA,
HE FINALLY LOST IT...
I...
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A GOOD ASYLUM?
I'll have to decline.
ALRIGHT, WE CAN STOP WITH THIS TOPIC.
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS MARIA? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY.
!
THAT'S RIGHT... MARIA...
IS WITH... KATARI...
THEY ENTERED THIS WALL...
!!!
MARIA AS WELL?!

ㄱ=!
HEEEY!
PIIIIMP!
AH, WELL...
AS LONG AS ALL OF YOU
SAW THE SAME STRANGE THING THAT I DID
THEN IT'S FINE.

WHO?
THE CREATOR OF THIS HOTEL...
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S A SEALED LABYRINTH OR JUST AN ILLUSION
WHAT WERE THEY TRYING TO ACHIEVE BY CREATING THIS HOTEL AND EVERYTHING IN HERE?
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO CREATURES THAT CAN MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR ABILITIES HERE IN DI
DEMONS...?

YEAH,
MOST PROBABLY
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
THERE WAS A SIGN WELCOMING EVERYONE FROM ZOO IN THE LOBBY
Welcome, everyone from ZOO. Please enjoy your stay.
COULD IT BE SOME-ONE WHO KNOWS US—
P!!!MP!
"ZOO" WAS WRITTEN ON THE SIGN?
IT'S US! FROM ZOO!
IT'S OK TO COME OUT NOW!

AH, THAT'S RIGHT, THE SIGN—
OH, SHUT UP ALREADY, KATARI!
I MAY HAVE MASSIVE BOOBS NOW, BUT IT'S ME! KATARI!
OH, THAT? I WROTE IT.
HUH?!
WELL I WAS IN QUITE THE SITUATION AND WAS FEELING LONELY, SO—
I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE FUN IF EVERYONE COULD COME.

TH... THAT RUINED MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT.
IT'S WEIRD THAT ONLY WE WERE LET INSIDE
YOU STOLE THE PEN THAT YOU BOR-ROWED*?
SO, BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD USED THIS PEN THAT I FOUND
AT THE RECEPTION DESK.

*借りパク is a shortened form of 借りる, meaning to borrow (借りる) and steal (盗く). So put it together and it means to steal something you borrowed! (Kari-pakuru)

My love is on its way to blossoming. But it seems like there is still a long way to go.
IT'D BE AWESOME TO STAY HERE, ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR LOVER!
RIGHT?
WELL...
IT'S NOT "ESPECIALLY" WITH YOUR LOVER...
HUH?
IT'S MORE LIKE...
Matching pairs...

WHOAA! IT'S SO FLUFFY!
A ROOM THAT YOU COULDN'T STAY IN WITH ANYONE BUT YOUR LOVER?!

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS WAS A TRAVELLER'S HOTEL FOR RESTING, BUT...
NOW I GET IT...

PIMP ISN'T HERE
LET'S CHECK OUT THE OTHER ROOMS
Tomato kun!
Throw aside your sword and hurry~ I need you to come to me~
JUST KIDDI—
BEEP

I KNEW IT.
AN ENEMY
— HAS CHANGED ONE OF OUR COMRADES INTO A MONSTER AND IS TRYING TO GET US TO KILL EACH OTHER.
INDEED— HOW FRIGHTENING
WAIT, JUST WHO ARE YOU CALLING A MONSTER?!
I was trying to lighten up the mood!!
YEAH, WHATEVER. JUST HURRY UP AND COME
HALF-FISH WOMAN.

OH?
Welcome everyone from ZOO. Please enjoy your stay
IF YOU LOOK CLOSE-LY...
THE ROOM NAMES ARE PRETTY CRAZY...
"THE ROOM OF GROWING LOVE".

enjoy your stay.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GONE IN A CIRCLE.
AH... THE LIZARD FROM THE SNACK...
PHEW...

BOOBS ARE HEAVY.
WHY DON'T YOU RIP THEM OFF AND THROW THEM AWAY?

PIMP... I WONDER IF WE PASSED EACH OTHER BY WITHOUT NOTICING...
OR IT COULD BE—

YURIKA AND SAFINIA...
MIGHT HAVE COME IN AFTER US
IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF WE DIDN'T MOVE AROUND SO CARELESSLY
HONESTLY
THAT'S TRUE
LET'S WAIT HERE THEN
A VACATION, HUH...
NO, EVEN IF EVERYONE ONE CAME I DON'T THINK THEY'D BE ABLE TO RELAX IN PEACE
THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE OF A VACATION* IF EVERYONE HAD COME

* Technically 慰安旅行 is an incentive trip which is usually offered to employees of a company so they work harder etc, it's a Japanese thing apparently

IF ALL OF US WERE COMING ALONG,
I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE BEACH
THERE ARE NO BEACHES IN ELDEN
THE BEACH HUH THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
WE COULD ALL EAT SEA SNAILS COOKED IN THEIR OWN SHELL
How youthful
THE BEACH HUH
WELL, THAT IS IF WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE SAFELY.
BUT SERIOUSLY
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SWIM NAKED?
If you used shells, it'd be one-size FITS all
A swimsuit... I wonder if they have one for my size...
WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK SUITS ME BETTER? A BIKINI OR A ONE-PIECE?

TOMATO-KUN...
THAT'S...
THIS THING DIDN'T WARD OFF DISASTER AT ALL
DID I GET SCAMMED?
It's h-f
IT'S THE SAME AS PIMP'S...
AAHH!! CRAP!!!

MYSTERIES OF FISH
I LEFT IT BEHIND! MY BOOK ON THE MYSTERIES OF FISH!
WHAT? THAT WEIRD BOOK?
IT'S PROBABLY STILL IN THAT ROOM WE WERE IN JUST NOW!
IT WAS IN THE WAY WHEN I WAS MAKING A SEXY POSE...
SO I MOVED IT OUT OF THE WAY, BUT...

Take care.
BYE-BYE.
NO, I'VE GOT TO GET IT BA—

IT SHOULD BE SAFE WHILE IT'S LIGHT.
Be at ease and be...
What happened, chivalry?!
A GIRL LIKE ME WILL BE IN DANGER ALL BY HERSELF!
I'M A GIRL NOW, AREN'T I?!
And one with a ton'a'bout sexy body!
COME ON, LET'S GO TOGETHER?
.....
HEY, LADY!
BUT PIMP MIGHT PASS HERE.

IT SHOULD BE FINE IF WE LEAVE A MESSAGE.
WHAT WAS THE ROOM CALLED?
It should be fine on this's on since it stands out so much
ポン
"THE ROOM OF GROWING LOVE"?
Hmmm
YEAH. AND "WE'LL BE WAITING"... OKAY!
NOW TO LEAVE IT WHERE IT STANDS OUT
THIS SHOULD BE OK, RIGHT?
DOESN'T IT SEEM A BIT PLAIN TO YOU?
MEET UP AT THE ROOM OF LOVE GROWING!
Welcome, everyon
from ZOO. Pleas
enjoy your stay.

IF WE DON'T DO THIS MUCH PIMP WILL PROBABLY WOULN'T EVEN NOTICE
CIRCLE THE PARTS WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE WITH RED AND...
MEET AT THE ROOM OF GROWING LOVE!
we'll be waiting!
ATTENTION!
ATTEN-TION!
Meet up!
Welcome, everyo
from ZOO. Pl
NOW THEN LET'S GO!
IT FEELS LIKE... A RAFFLE OR SOMETHING
If it was me I'd be bullied and never get picked to win
...SIGH

TURNS OUT WE DIDN'T GET TO DO SOME WORK THIS TIME, EITHER
LET'S HURRY UP AND SOLVE THIS SO WE CAN DIVE INTO THE LABY-RINTH.
OR, SHOULD I HOOK YOU UP WITH MORE PART-TIME JOBS?
NO, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF PAR—

TOMATO-KUN...?
WHAT'S WRONG?
...I CAN FEEL A PRESENCE.

...COULD IT BE... PIMP? HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN THE MESSAGE.
AND GOTTEN HERE BEFORE US, WHO WROTE THAT MESSAGE?
NOT TO MENTION, PIMP DOESN'T HAVE A PRESENCE.
...I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE THAT ROOM.
BUT JUST IN CASE,
BE READY TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
...IS IT AN ENEMY?

…
ガチャ

...
MARIA!

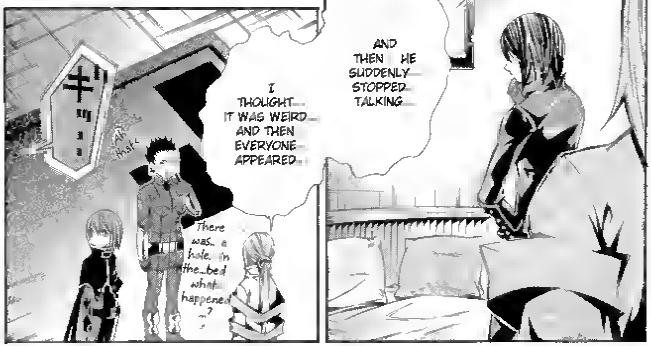
THOSE... SERIOUS EYES...
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, SO...
NO...
AM I GOING TO GET HUGGED?!
WAIT HERE!
...HUH?

*Maria says this in Kansai ben, which is the same way Kaitari talks.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS?
EXPLAIN IT SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S... MORE LIKE WHAT WE SHOULD... BE SAYING TO YOU...
WE COINCIDENTALLY... MET WITH AZIAN,
AND WE SEARCHED FOR MARIA TOGETHER, BUT...
Mar a-! Mar aaa-! It's me Azan!
Ummm, where'd... this strange phenomenon... Maria... Maria is all he says...
Falling in love and becoming an id iot are written in the same character in Japanese.

MYSTERIES OF
Special Edition: Mimicry and Gender
SO... WE SEARCHED THIS ROOM. BUT...
HERE WE FOUND THIS BOOK... AND THOUGHT THAT... SOMETHING... MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO... KATARI...

Ah... my heart aches!
A...ed, huh...
HALFWAY THROUGH... HE STARTED... TO HAVE... DELUSIONS...


AND THEN HE SUDDENLY STOPPED TALKING...
I THOUGHT... IT WAS WEIRD... AND THEN EVERYONE APPEARED...
Ah, that's...
There was a hole in the bed what happened...?

STEP
GUYS...
ARE YOU HERE?
PIMP!
THANK GOODNESS... YOU HAVE NO PRESENCE.
SO IT WAS HARD TO FIND YOU!
I SAW... YOUR MESSAGE.

"LUNCH-TIME"... HAS ALREADY LEFT.
AH, YEAH
I KNOW
PIMP!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

ARE YOU GOING TO WAIT HERE,
LIKE AZIAN SAID?
!
AFTER ALL THE RIDICULOUS THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED SO FAR,
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JUST SIT BACK HERE AND WAIT.
NO MATTER WHO THE CULPRIT IS BEHIND THIS, I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A BEATING.
...

EH?
EEEEH?!
WHAT'S WRONG SAFINA?
NO... I... IT'S NOTHING...
?
LET'S GO
AND CHASE AFTER AZIAN
"AN UNBELIEVABLE DISASTER"...
LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT AWAITING US...
WAS THE FINISHING BLOW...

HELP WANTED

The fabulous Kingdom of Iskultrip Scans is in need of more servants fitting to serve le King! We are calling for ***TRANSLATORS***, ***EDITORS***, and ***SCANNERS*** from all walks of life! Due to certain circumstances, those who are experts in their crafts are heeded to apply!

For more information, visit the reception at http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net and inquire NOW!

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